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Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 AS-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00
NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 TRSE-00
EB-07 OMB-01 EUR-12 /070 W
----------003645 111012Z /10
O R 110925Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9280
INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
USLO PEKING
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI
COMUSJAPAN YOKOTA AB JA

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 10346

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, JA
SUBJECT: UPPER HOUSE ELECTION: PRELIMINARY RESULTS

REF: TOKYO 10278

SUMMARY. WITH ALL LOCAL CONSTITUENCIES COUNTED, LDP HAS SURPRISINGLY HELD ITS OWN IN UPPER HOUSE ELECTION. PENDING NATIONAL CONSTITUENCY RESULTS, IT APPEARS THAT, JOINED BY SUCCESSFUL CONSERVATIVE INDEPENDENTS, LDP WILL RETAIN MAJORITY IN UPPER HOUSE. PRIMIN FUKUDA'S POSITION HAS BEEN MARKEDLY STRENGTHENED. PERFORMANCE BY OPPOSITION PARTIES HAS BEEN MIXED, SOCIALISTS AND COMMUNISTS DOING AS POORLY AS PREDICTED. AMONG CENTRISTS, ONLY CGP DOING WELL. END SUMMARY.

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1. WITH RESULTS FROM ALL LOCAL CONSTITUENCIES TABULATED, LDP HAS DONE SURPRISINGLY WELL IN UPPER HOUSE ELECTION. IF NATIONAL CONSTITUENCY VOTING GOES AS EXPECTED, LDP AND ALLIED INDEPENDENTS WILL EMERGE WITH UPPER HOUSE MAJORITY INTACT. CONTRARY TO MEDIA PREDICTIONS, THIS STRONG SHOWING WILL MARKEDLY STRENGTHEN PRIMIN FUKUDA'S POSITION AND CALL INTO QUESTION "INEVITABILITY"

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OF COALITION GOVERNMENT.

2. RESULTS OF LOCAL CONSTITUENCY RACES ARE GIVEN
BELOW WITH EACH PARTY'S PRE-ELECTION STRENGTH IN
PARENTHESES.
LDP 45 (43)
JSP 17 (25)
CGP 5 (2)
JCP 2 (2)
DSP 2 (2)
NLC 2 (0)
IND 3 (0)
VACANT 0 (2)
TOTAL 76 76

3. FINAL RESULTS OF NATIONAL CONSTITUENCY RACE WILL NOT
BE KNOWN FOR SEVERAL HOURS, BUT AT THIS STAGE ALL
PARTIES, INCLUDING LDP (PREDICTED AT 18-20 SEATS) SEEM
TO BE PERFORMING AS EXPECTED. IT NOW LOOKS, THEREFORE,
AS IF LDP WILL FINISH IN 62-65 SEAT RANGE. TWO LOCAL
CONSITUENCY CONSERVATIVE INDEPENDENTS HAVE WON IN
KAGOSHIMA AND OITA AND ARE EXPECTED TO JOIN LDP AFTER
ELECTION (REFTEL). TAKAHASHI, IN NATIONAL CONSTITUENCY,
WILL PROBABLY BECOME THIRD WINNER TO JOIN LDP. LDP CONTROL
OF UPPER HOUSE THEREFORE SEEMS REASONABLY ASSURED.

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4. IMPORTANT DETERMINANT OF LOCAL CONSTITUENCY OUTCOMES
WAS SUPERB ORGANIZATIONAL EFFORT BY LDP AND CGP. LDP
MADE ALL-OUT EFFORT, PARTICULARLY IN LAST TWO DAYS OF
CAMPAIGN, TO MOBILIZE PARTY FAITHFUL IN RURAL AREAS. IT
TOOK BACK, FOR EXAMPLE, ALL EIGHT SINGLE-SEAT DISTRICTS
LOST TO SOCIALISTS IN 1971 EVEN THOUGH IT LOST TO JSP IN
TWO OTHERS. VOTER TURNOUT WAS RESPECTABLE 68.5 PERCENT.

5. RESULTS FOR LEFTIST PARTIES HAVE SO FAR BEEN AS PREDICTED.
IF NATIONAL CONSTITUENCY VOTE GOES AS EXPECTED, JSP
WILL EMERGE WITH ABOUT 27 SEATS (LOSS OF FIVE), WHICH
COULD MEAN REPLACEMENT OF PARTY EXECUTIVES ACCOMPANIED BY POWER
STRUGGLE. COMMUNISTS SEEM TO BE HOLDING OUT WITH ABOUT 8 SEATS.

6. CENTRIST PARTIES, TOUTED SINCE SUCCESSFUL PER-
FORMANCES IN DECEMBER 1976 LOWER HOUSE ELECTION AS BUILD-
ING TOWARD "CENTRIST BOOM," SO FAR HAVE HAD MIXED RESULTS.
CGP, WHICH SUFFERED FROM CONFUSION WHEN IT WAS FORMALLY
SEPARATED FROM PARENT SOKA GAKKAI JUST BEFORE 1971
UPPER HOUSE ELECTION, APPEARS TO HAVE FULLY RECOVERED
WITH 5 LOCAL VICTORIES AND PROBABLE 9 NATIONAL CONSTITUENCY
SEATS. DSP WILL PROBABLY KEEP ITS 5 SEATS. LNC PERFORMED

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WELL IN LOCAL CONSTITUENCIES BUT WAS ABOVE VICTORY LINE
ONLY IN SAITAMA AND TOKYO. ITS FATE IN NATIONAL CONSTITUENCY
IS UNKNOWN, PARTICULARLY INASMUCH AS NATIONAL CONSTITUENCY
VOTES IN TOKYO AND OSAKA HAVE NOT YET BEEN COUNTED.

7. POPULAR VOTE TOTALS, AVAILABLE TOMORROW, WILL GIVE
BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF VOTERS' INTENTIONS. LDP VICTORY,
WHICH WILL ENABLE PARTY TO RETAIN CONTROL OF UPPER HOUSE,
WILL ALSO HAVE FAVORABLE PSYCHOLOGICAL IMPACT FOR PARTY
INASMUCH AS ITS GOOD SHOWING WAS UNANTICIPATED. THIS
EFFECT WILL BE REINFORCED IF LDP, ON ITS OWN, GAINS 65
SEATS FOR BARE MAJORITY EVEN BEFORE INDEPENDENTS JOIN.
MANSFIELD

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